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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Plan for Production of Explosives

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1. A translation of the production plan for the years 1949/50 of the DKW (German Economic Commission), IV Chemistry, explosives section, dated 25 May 1948, initialed Ht/Hil., signature Huetter, attached. The plan shows the capacity of the different explosives plants at the date of establishment of the plan and the provided rate of output for the two years in question.

2. Despite the fact that the plan says that "large investments will not be necessary for the years to come", the SMA has now ordered a considerable increase in the capacities of the plants.

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Comment :

a. The following explosives plants, mentioned in the annex, are enumerated in the List of Industrial Plants of the Soviet Zone of Germany, Part I, Nationalized Enterprise (VEB) (Z) :

(1) Bergbau- Sprengstoff und Zuendmittelwerke (Mining explosives and inflammable matters plant), Schoenebeck/Elbe (formerly Lignose-Sprengstoffwerke GmbH - Lignose Explosives Plant Schoenebeck/Elbe, Heerstrasse 25 Plant No. 46/312/1001

(2) Jagdpatronen und Metallwarenfabrik (Sporting Gun Cartridges and Hardware Plant), Schoenebeck/Elbe (formerly Patronen-Zuendhuetchen- und Metallwaren A.G; vorm. Sellier and Bellot - Cartridges, Caps and Hardware Corporation) Schoenebeck/Elbe, Salzerstrasse 14 Plant No. 46/312/1000

(3) Bergbau-Sprengstoff- und Zuendschnuere Werk Gnaschwitz (formerly Sprengstoff- und Zuendschnuere Werk A.G. - (Mining explosives and Fuse Cord Works Corporation), Gnaschwitz No. 47 via Neukirch/Lusatia Plant No. 46/373/0101

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Private plants mentioned in the List of Industrial Plants in the Soviet Zone of Germany, Part III :

Zuenschnuere-Fabrik Bruecker und Linke ( Fuse Cord Factory Bruecker and Linke), Reissen, Steinweg 13  
Plant No. 46/339/4002

The powder factory in Langenrinne near Freiberg-Saxony is not mentioned in the list of industrial plants of the Soviet Zone of Germany as an independent plant as it is a secondary plant of the mining management in Freiberg.

b. According to the production plans of 1948, 1949 and 1950, the following quantities of explosives and detonation agents were produced or will be produced according to plan :

	1948	Plan 1949	Plan 1950
Explosion and detonation agents	14,500 tons	15,100 tons	17,010 tons
Detonators and fuzes	12 million items	16 million items	16 million items
Percussion caps	12 million "	12 million "	12 million items
Sporting gun and slaughter house cartridges	14.4 million "	16.5 million "	18 million items
Fuse cords	22.9 million meters	28 million meters	30 million meters

c. In the annex the capacities for the various items are stated as follows :

Explosives	24,000 tons per year
Detonators with electric igniters	15, million pieces
Percussion caps	36 million pieces
Sporting gun and slaughter house cartridges	24 million pieces
Fuse cords	30 million meters

According to these statements the capacities reported in May 1948 would also suffice for the output of explosives planned according to the annual plan for 1950, except for detonators and igniters.

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d. Special attention is called to the release of explosives and detonation agents to units of the occupation power.

1 Annex : Production Plan for the Years 1949/1950.

( 1 Original in German with one Copy and Translation).

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Translation

25 May 1948

Copy

Explosives Section

Ht/Hil

Dr. Bertsch

Production Plan for the Years 1949/1950.

In the Soviet Zone of Germany the following firms produce safety explosives and detonation agents :

1. Lignose Sprengstoff-Werke GmbH, Schoenebeck on the Elbe River (N 53/D 78)
2. Sprengstoff- und Zueendschnurwerke Gnaschwitz A.G., Gnaschwitz near Bautzen (O 52/A 60)
3. Bruecker & Zinke, Reissen (N 52/F 09)
4. Pulverfabrik, Bergrevier Freiberg, Langenrinne near Freiberg (N 51/K 96)
5. Jagdpatronen- und Metallwaren-Fabrik, vorm. Sellier & Bellot, Schoenebeck on the Elbe River.

The present annual capacities are :

Lignose Sprengstoffwerke GmbH., Schoenebeck :

Donarit	12,000 tons	
Chloratit	<u>6,000 tons</u>	18,000 tons
Sprengstoff- und Zueendschnurwerke Gnaschwitz A. G., Gnaschwitz :		
Donarit and Gelatine Donarit	6,000 tons	<u>6,000 tons</u>
		24,000 tons

Lignose Sprengstoffwerke GmbH., Schoenebeck :

Detonators	12 million pieces	
Electric igniters	<u>3 million pieces</u>	15 million pieces
DI and Nitrotoluol (nitration)	3,600 tons	
Percussion caps for sporting gun cartridges	36 million pieces	

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Smokeless powder for sporting gun  
cartridges (plant under construction)  
probable capacity 60 tons

Sprengstoff- und Zunderschnurwerke  
Gnaschwitz A.G., Gnaschwitz:

Fuse cords, single-tarred and  
double-tarred 24 million meters

Bruecker & Zinke, Meissen

Fuse cord, double-tarred

Gutta-percha safety fuse cord 6 million meters 30 million meters

Pulver-Fabrik, Bergrevier  
Freiberg, Langenrinne :

Ignitor powder for fuse cords,  
blasting powder 200 tons

Jagdpatronen- und Metallwaren-  
Fabrik vorm. Sellier & Bellot,  
Schoenebeck

Shotgun cartridges 12 million pieces

Cartridge stuhning cartridges 12 million pieces 24 million pieces

On the understanding that the required raw material and additional  
stuff are available the present capacities will be sufficient for  
meeting the whole demand for explosives and detonation agents in  
the Soviet Zone of Germany.

The distribution plans, submitted to the SMA in Berlin-Karlshorst  
(M 53/Z 94), have been approved for the moment to the following extent  
(converted to yearly amounts) :

13,200 tons of explosives  
12 million pieces of detonators  
3 million pieces of ignitors  
13,500,000 meters of fuse cords.

In addition, the SMA in Berlin-Karlshorst released explosives and  
detonation agents, especially for military purposes, but we do not  
know the amount of the demanded articles. In case of an increased  
German demand for caustic potash, salt, ores and other expendable  
supplies, the existing capacities will be able to meet it easily if  
sufficient raw material is supplied. As to explosives there are also  
good prospects of resuming old export relations with the Balkan  
States and the western countries as, aside from the Lignosc firm,  
Schoenebeck and Gnaschwitz, the Dynamit-Nobel A.G., Troisdorf Bez.

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Koeln (K 51/F 54), is in a position to produce the so-called mining safety explosives.

As to fuse cords, the Bruecker & Zinke firm, Meissen, after working at full capacity again (i.e., after the erection of additional spinning machines and wire covering machines and the arrival of sufficient supply of gutta-percha from abroad), can be employed for exporting its products to the Union of South Africa (gold and ore mines), to India, Central and South America, Switzerland, the Scandinavian countries and Spain.

In the second half of 1949, the installation for the production of smokeless powder at the Lignose firm in Schoenebeck will be finished by order of the SMA in Karlshorst, in order to enable it to meet the demand for smokeless powder for the manufacture of shotgun cartridges. For the production of this kind of cartridges major orders on reparations account are continually received.

Furthermore, in 1949/1950 it will be absolutely necessary to overhaul the technical installations of the two explosives plants and to make the necessary repairs as the se plants badly need renovation of certain parts, preferably by installing new machines. A most important demand is the supply of at least four or six cartridge-case lapping machines, orders for which had been placed with the Werner and Pfeleiderer firm, Stuttgart, as early as 1944 and had been paid for, too, by the Lignose Explosives Plant. Despite all efforts, it was not possible to obtain the required approval of the required iron quota from the GMA in Karlshorst.

Another idea of the plan is to erect a denitrator plant for waste acids, after the Pauling system, at the Sprengstoff- und Guedschnurwerke Gnaschwitz, to enable this firm to produce the required trinitrotoluol in its own plant.

The demand for cattle stunning cartridges for the whole of Germany can be met by Schoenebeck on the condition that the W. Werner firm, Suhl/Thuringia (K 51/J 12), can supply the sufficient amount of bolt-shooting apparatus.

Summarizing, it may be stated that major investments for the production of explosives and fuse cords will not be required in the years to come and that the firms will be in a position to meet an increased demand in Germany.

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